and for suggesting a clear and well regulated mechanism for importation of stocks of such species.

(iii) Guidelines have been formulated under the rules framed under the Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005 for regulating coastal aquaculture to ensure sustainable development of shrimp aquaculture in the country.

(iv) The National Committee for Introduction of Exotic Aquatic Species in Indian waters has approved a few proposals to import hybrid *Tilapia* species for culture, as per the guidelines stipulated for this purpose.

(v) NFDB has introduced programmes for popularizing mariculture through adoption of appropriate technology as well as for enthusing the shrimp hatcheries to diversify into production of fin fish seed.

(vi) MPEDA is organizing demonstration programmes to popularize diversification of coastal aquaculture including culture of fin fish like sea bass, groupers, etc.

(d) Question does not arise.

Crop damage due to hailstorms and monsoon

38. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that gales, followed by rains and hailstorms, have caused extensive damage to farmers' crops in several States last month;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said rains and hailstorms have caused damage to life and livestocks; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, with support given/being given by Government to the farmers, State-wise and district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Supply of DAP fertilizers to Andhra Pradesh

39. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of Di Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) would run into short in Andhra Pradesh during the kharif season due to shutting of two fertilizer companies in the south;

(b) if so, whether the steps taken to overcome the shortages include the import of fertilizers;

(c) whether the importing agencies will be able to tie up stocks and bring them in on time;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the alternative steps taken to over come the shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Di-Ammonium Phosphate (DAP) is a decontrolled fertilizer and its availability is decided by market forces of demand and supply. Due to reduced production as well as imports by the traditional fertilizer companies producing/importing DAP, State Governments have been requested to get balance supply of DAP from Indian Potash Limited/MMTC Limited on payment of Maximum Retail Price less dealers margin and to arrange for its distribution within the State through their marketing federations. Amount so advanced by the State Government will be recouped through realisation of its sale. The State Trading Agencies have already finalised import of the full requirement of DAP as estimated by various State Governments for both the current Kharif as well as the ensuing Rabi season.

Closure of units in FACT

40. SHRI THENNALA G. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the various plants of FACT is closed down due to the enhancement of price of raw—material in international market; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken to start the production in FACT, Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Recently, it was reported by the management of FACT, that the Caprolactam-Ammoniam Sulphate plant has been temporarily closed down due to abnormal increase in the price of raw materials in the international market. However, the complex fertilizer (NPK) plant of FACT is still operational.

(b) A special financial dispensation proposal for FACT is under active consideration of the Government.

Village Grain Bank Scheme in Maharashtra

41. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has submitted a proposal regarding revised Village Grain Bank Scheme, dated 24th March, 2006;

(b) if so, whether the Chief Minister also reminded in a communication dated 18th September, 2006 with the Agriculture Minister about the scheme;

(c) whether Government have raised any queries regarding this issue and if so, when the information was received from the State Government; and

(d) if so, what is the latest decision and by what time the final decision in this regard is going to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.